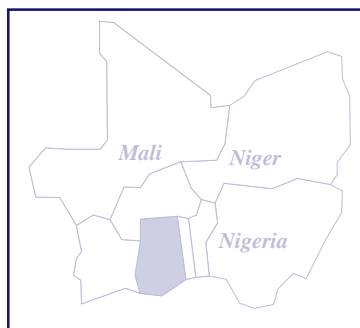


## USAID Country Program Brief, October 1998

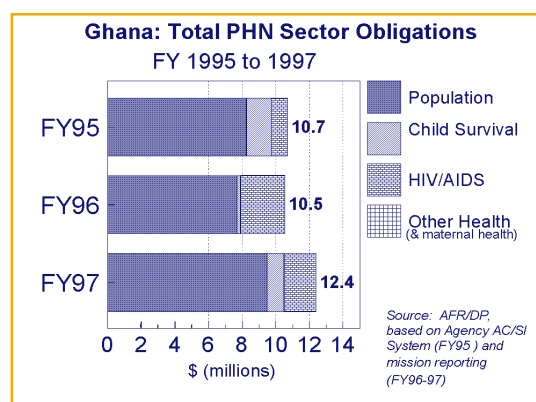
### Family Planning and Health Activities in

## Ghana



Population:	18.4 million (UN estimate for 1997)
Infant mortality rate:	66 deaths per 1,000 births (1993 DHS)
Adequate nutrition (wt.-for-age):	65% of children ages 12–23 months (1993 DHS)
Total fertility rate:	5.5 children per woman (1993 DHS)
Contraceptive prevalence rate:	10.1% (married women/modern methods, 1993 DHS)
Demographic and Health Surveys:	1988, 1993, 1998
Multi-indicator cluster survey:	1995 (UNICEF)

USAID/Ghana is operating under a country strategic plan for 1997–2001 with an overall goal to promote sustainable market growth. Many activities under the Family Planning and Health Project (1991–96) have been bridged into the mission’s Ghana Population and AIDS Project (1994–2000). Agencywide funding trends for family planning and health activities in Ghana in 1995–97 are summarized in the figure to the right. The mission is pursuing the following strategic objective and intermediate results (IRs) in family planning and health.



### **Strategic Objective 3:** Improved family health.

**IR 3.1:** Increased use of family planning service.

**IR 3.2:** Increased use of proven human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention services.

**IR 3.3:** Increased use of selected child survival services.

## Activities in Family Planning and Health

**Promotion of Family Planning.** Working in conjunction with Ghana’s National Population Council, Ministry of Health (MOH), local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), the World Bank, the Government of Japan, and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), USAID/Ghana is focusing on promoting policy reform, facilitating the flow of family planning commodities, and strengthening the role of the private sector in providing family planning services. Key to the mission’s activities is support for the two private family planning organizations, the Ghana Social Marketing Foundation and the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana. The mission’s strategy in family planning is to support the following priority areas of intervention identified by the MOH and NGOs:

- Information and education campaigns to increase understanding of the health benefits of family planning;
- Expanded access to more effective family planning methods, particularly Depo-provera, Norplant®, and sterilization;
- Increasing public and private sector resource allocation to population activities; and
- Improving the distribution of family planning information and services to males, adolescents, and people in rural areas.

In addition to policy, communication, and marketing activities, the mission is supporting training for pharmacists and practitioners in family planning counseling and the provision of longer-term methods. A draft adolescent reproductive health strategy, drawn up with the National Population Council, is designed to lead to more effective programming for youth.

**Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS.** As a major donor in acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) prevention in Ghana, USAID/Ghana is building upon successes in developing local capacity for diagnosis and surveillance of HIV and other STIs. The mission is supporting continued collection and analysis of data to monitor the spread of HIV and working to further increase knowledge about HIV/AIDS and STIs; reduce high-risk sexual behavior; and increase use of condoms through targeted information, education, and communication (IEC) activities. Grants provided to local and U.S. private voluntary organizations (PVOs) support prevention activities aimed at specific high-risk groups such as adolescents and the police.

**Child Survival.** USAID/Ghana is providing grants to UNICEF, Africare, and local NGOs to strengthen child survival interventions such as immunization and oral rehydration through support for cold chain supplies and equipment; IEC activities; and health worker training and social marketing of oral rehydration therapy. The mission has contributed to a vaccine stabilization fund within the MOH and helped to draft a national child survival strategy that focuses on breastfeeding, nutrition, immunization, integrated management of childhood illnesses, and neonatal care. Outside of the mission's portfolio, PL 480 Title II resources support training of community health workers by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency and Catholic Relief Services.

### Global Bureau and USAID/Ghana Joint Programming Activities

**Access to Family Planning Through Women Managers Project** improves access to quality family planning and reproductive health services.

**AVSC International** is working with the MOH to improve access to and quality of family planning services in the public and private sectors.

**Family Planning Logistics Management Project** assists the MOH, the Ghana Social Marketing Foundation, and community-based distribution networks in management, training, and distribution of contraceptives for family planning and AIDS prevention programs. The project has also helped the MOH prepare a long-range strategic plan for strengthening contraceptive logistics.

**IMPACT** is conducting a comprehensive HIV/AIDS/STI needs assessment with the United Nations Development Programme.

**Johns Hopkins Program for International Education in Reproductive Health** is working to strengthen family planning skills among private sector physicians.

**Johns Hopkins University/Population Communication Services** conducts training in IEC materials development.

**POLICY Project** works toward a supportive policy environment for family planning and reproductive health programs.

#### **Primary Providers' Education and Training in Reproductive Health**

**Private Initiatives for Primary Healthcare** provides technical assistance to support the development of local initiative groups that represent different models of private sector health care and local management groups, which may serve health care providers as long-term sources of technical assistance.

**Strategy for Improving Service Delivery/Operations Research** is working to develop and test an approach to family planning and primary health care that is appropriate for rural villages in northern Ghana, including attention to gender issues, female genital mutilation, and reproductive tract infections.

**U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** is assisting with child survival program management.

**BASICS** is working with the MOH to strengthen the child survival program.

### Bureau for Humanitarian Response, Office of Private & Voluntary Cooperation Child Survival Grantees as of 1998

**Plan International** received a BHR/PVC child survival grant for activities in 1997.



*This USAID Country Program Brief was prepared for the Human Resources Division, Office of Sustainable Development, USAID Africa Bureau (AFR/SD/HRD), by the Center for International Health Information (CIHI). Questions and comments can be directed to CIHI ([info@cihi.com](mailto:info@cihi.com)).*